

What is claimed is:

1. A quick-release plug assembly comprising:
a plug body defining an opening for receiving an end of a cord; and
a socket body for receiving the plug body along a coupling axis, the socket body having outwardly diverging sidewalls;
wherein one of the socket body and the plug body include first and second contact posts, and the other of the socket body and the plug body defines corresponding first and second contacts spaced to connect to the contact posts when the plug body is coupled to the socket body;
wherein one of the socket body and the plug body include a magnet, and the other of the socket body and the plug body includes an attraction member so that a magnetic force between the magnet and the attraction member couples the plug body along the coupling axis to the socket body; and
wherein the cord is received in the opening of the plug body from a direction which is at an angle relative to the coupling axis when the plug body is coupled to the socket body.
2. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the contact posts extend from the socket body, and wherein the contact posts are spring-loaded.
3. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the opening defined by the plug body for receiving the cord is upwardly angled from the coupling axis.
4. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the sidewalls are curved.
5. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the magnet is disposed between the contacts.

6. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the socket body includes a downwardly angled bottom wall.

7. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 1 wherein the socket body includes a plurality of vertical ridges located so that when the plug body is coupled to the socket body the ridges contact a front surface of the plug body at a point spaced inwardly from side surfaces of the plug body and thereby provides a fulcrum about which the plug body may pivot to remove the plug body from the socket body.

8. A quick-release plug assembly for electrically coupling an electric cord to an appliance, the assembly comprising:

a plug body which receives an end of the cord, the plug body having a front surface and side surfaces; and

an appliance defining a connection location for coupling the appliance to the plug body;

wherein one of the connection location and the plug body include first and second contact posts, and the other of the connection location and the plug body defines corresponding first and second contacts spaced to connect to the contact posts when the plug body is coupled to the connection location of the appliance;

wherein one of the connection location and the plug body include a magnet, and the other of the connection location and the plug body includes an attraction member so that a magnetic force between the magnet and the attraction member couples the plug body to the connection location of the appliance;

wherein the connection location includes at least one ridge, the ridge being located so that when the plug body is coupled to the connection location the ridge contacts the front surface of the plug body at a point spaced inwardly from the side surfaces of the plug body and thereby provides a fulcrum about which the plug body may pivot to remove the plug body from the connection location.

9. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 8 wherein the ridge is vertical.

10. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 8 wherein the at least one ridge includes first and second vertical ridges.

11. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 10 wherein the first and second vertical ridges are intersected by the first and second contact posts respectively.

12. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 8 wherein the connection location includes outwardly diverging sidewalls.

13. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 8 wherein the contact posts extend from the connection location, and wherein the contact posts are spring-loaded.

14. The quick-release plug assembly of claim 8 wherein the plug body defines a channel opening for receiving the end of the cord, the channel opening being upwardly angled relative to the contact posts when the plug body is coupled to the connection location.

15. An appliance and cord assembly comprising:

an appliance defining a connection location for coupling the appliance to the cord, the appliance having at least one base pad which supports the appliance, the base pad having a height, the base pad extending downwards from a bottom of the appliance, the appliance also having a base skirt extending from the bottom of the appliance, the skirt located toward an outside of the appliance relative to the base pad, the skirt extending downwardly only a portion of the height of the base pad;

a plug body which receives an end of the cord;

wherein one of the connection location and the plug body include first and second contact posts, and the other of the connection location and the plug body defines

corresponding first and second contacts spaced to connect to the contact posts when the plug body is coupled to the connection location of the appliance;

wherein one of the connection location and the plug body include a magnet, and the other of the connection location and the plug body includes an attraction member so that a magnetic force between the magnet and the attraction member couples the plug body to the connection location of the appliance.

16. The assembly of claim 15 wherein the base skirt is located adjacent the base pad.

17. The assembly of claim 15 wherein the at least one base pad includes first, second and third base pads, each base pad supporting the appliance when the appliance is set on a level surface, each base pad having a height, each base pad extending downwards from a bottom of the appliance, and further wherein the base skirt is a first base skirt, the appliance including second and third base skirts extending from the bottom of the appliance, the first second and third base skirts located adjacent the first second and third base pads respectively and toward the outside of the appliance relative to the base pads, the base skirts extending downwardly only a portion of the height of the base pads.

18. An electrical cord plug assembly comprising:

an electrical cord having first and second ends, the cord having first and second conductive leads;

a plug body including first and second housing members, the first and second opposed housing members, the first and second housing members coupled to each other by a fastener, the first and second housing members together defining first and second lead paths which receive the conductive leads of the cord, the first and second lead paths lying in a common plane, the first and second housing members defining a cord channel

for receiving the cord, the cord channel in communication with the lead paths, the cord channel disposed at an angle relative to the plane of the first and second lead paths;

a magnet disposed between the first and second housing members;

first and second extension arms positioned along opposite sides of the magnet, the extension arms extending from inside the plug body to outside the plug body through slots defined by a front surface of the plug body;

two conducting contacts positioned between the first and second housing members, the contacts being electrically connected to the conductive leads of the cord, the contacts being accessible through first and second contact apertures defined by the front surface of the plug body.

19. The electrical cord plug assembly of claim 18 wherein the contacts are L-shaped.

20. The electrical cord plug assembly of claim 18 wherein the extension arms define notches, and wherein one of the first and second housing members includes bosses received by the notches of the extension arms.

21. The electrical cord plug assembly of claim 18 wherein the plug body includes a rounded collar positioned around the cord channel.

22. The electrical cord plug assembly of claim 18 wherein the contact apertures flare outward from the contacts.

23. A quick-release socket for receiving a magnetic plug, the socket comprising:
a socket body defining a plug chamber and a plug axis for receipt of the magnetic plug, the chamber having two outwardly diverging sidewalls and a downwardly diverging bottom wall, the socket body defining two post apertures parallel to the plug axis;

two spring-loaded contact posts received by the post apertures of the socket body parallel to the plug axis;

an attraction member held by the socket body for attracting a magnetic member of the magnetic plug.

24. The quick-release socket of claim 22 wherein the socket body includes a plurality of vertical ridges which provide a fulcrum about which the plug may pivot to remove the plug from the socket.

25. The quick-release socket of claim 23 wherein the plurality of vertical ridges are located so that when a plug is received in the socket, the ridges contact a front surface of the plug at points spaced inwardly from side surfaces of the plug.